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Note verbale dated 28 July 2010 from the Permanent Mission of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Mission of Iraq to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, and has the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 28 July 2010, addressed to you from H.E. Mr. Hoshyar Zebari, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq regarding the extension of the mandate of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (see annex).

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Annex to the note verbale dated 28 July 2010 from the Permanent Mission of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Arabic]

I have the honour to convey to you the wish of my Government that the mandate of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) should be extended for a further period of 12 months, in keeping with Security Council resolutions 1500 (2003), 1546 (2004), 1557 (2004), 1619 (2005), 1700 (2006), 1770 (2007), 1830 (2008) and 1883 (2009).

Over the past year, violence has declined markedly. Despite a number of terrorist acts targeting innocent civilians, the security situation in Iraq has improved significantly. The agreement providing for the withdrawal of United States troops and regularizing their temporary presence is being implemented. The Iraqi security forces are fully assuming their responsibilities, despite challenges in some areas. They have, without a doubt, proved their ability to maintain security throughout Iraq, inflicting debilitating and lethal blows against terrorist forces and upholding the law without regard for party, ethnic or sectarian considerations.

Legislative elections were held on 7 March 2010 and elicited considerable Arab, regional and international interest. The Mission and the observers of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, the League of Arab States, the international community and civil society organizations all expressed their conviction that the elections, which helped to consolidate democracy in Iraq, had been transparent and fair. The announcement of the results was delayed by the constitutionally mandated certification procedure, which entailed a recount in accordance with electoral regulations.

The political blocs are working to form, as soon as possible, a strong and effective Government based on the Constitution and the law, representing all components of Iraqi society.

The improvement in the security situation has encouraged many Arab and other countries to reopen their missions in Iraq, thereby enhancing the country's regional and international relations. That trend has been further encouraged by the appointment of 35 Iraqi ambassadors around the world, demonstrating Iraq's endeavour to become an effective and responsible member of the international community.

The Government of Iraq values the advice, support and assistance of UNAMI, and looks forward to a more positive, effective and constructive role for the Mission with the return to work in Iraq of the specialized agencies, funds and programmes and their direct and valuable contribution to its reconstruction.

The elected constitutional Government of Iraq, while reiterating its wish that the mandate should be extended, hopes that the provision of assistance will be in accordance with specific mechanisms and with the prior approval of the Government of Iraq, in the manner referred to in my letter dated 6 August 2007.

Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

(*Signed*) Hoshyar **Zebari**
Minister for Foreign Affairs
Republic of Iraq